



K A N S A S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

October 15, 2004

Further Guidance on Priority Groups for Inactivated Influenza Vaccination

In order to assist vaccine providers in the responsible use of vaccine, Kansas state health officials, in collaboration with local health officials, developed the following guidance for more specifically defining high risk groups. Local health officials are encouraged to work with the local medical community to further prioritize these groups based on available supplies and the priority groups specific to their community. Thank you for your assistance in getting flu vaccine to those who need it most.

Priority Groups

- Children 6-23 months of age
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Persons 2-64 years of age with underlying medical conditions
- Women who will be pregnant during influenza season
- Residents of nursing home and long-term care facilities
- Children 6 months – 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy
- Healthcare workers involved in direct, hands-on patients care – especially patient care of high-risk individuals
- Out of home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age

Risk Due to Chronic Medical Condition

- Pulmonary (e.g. asthma, COPD)
- Cardiovascular (e.g. CHF)
- Metabolic (e.g. diabetes)
- Renal dysfunction
- Hemoglobinopathy
- Immunosuppression (e.g. chemotherapy, HIV)

Healthcare Workers (HCW)

- HCWs are a source of infection for patients or nursing home residents
- Vaccination of both patients and HCWs is most desirable
- Studies have proven vaccination of HCWs alone reduces death and illness in residents at a greater degree than vaccination of

Do NOT Vaccinate...

- Healthy persons 2-64 years of age
 - Household contacts of high-risk persons EXCEPT children less than 6 months of age
 - Providers of essential community services (e.g. fire, police, etc.)*
 - Foreign travelers* and Students*
- *except those who are in a priority group because of age or medical condition

FluMist, the Nasal Vaccine

- Use for healthy 5 – 49 year old individuals who are contacts of infants under 6 months of age
- HCWs who provide direct patient care, **unless** they care for severely immunocompromised people